NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affiltra. The following officers have been elected the Union Benevolent Association: resident, Samuel H. Perkins; Vice-Presidents, G. Fisher Leaming, Benjamin Coates; Treasurer, E. R. Wood; Corresponding Secreary, L. Montgomery Bond; Recording Secreary, John H. Atwood; Managers, Thomas Latimer, John Bohlen, William Parves, Arthur G. Coffin, Benjamin Orne, Thomas Wattson, Joseph H. Dulles, John Ashburst, Thomas A. Budd, Richard Wood, Charles Stewart Wurtz, M. D., Joseph A. Clay, Alfred M. Collins, John E. Graeff, Henry D. herrard, J. B. Van Dusen, S. Morris Waln, John B. Getz, William A. Porter, George C. Morris.

 During the past year the Moyamensing Soup Society have distributed soup, meal, and bread for sixty-nine days, supplying adults and children, to the number of 1500, with 110,400 pints of soup, 5000 pounds of bread, and 5700 pounds of meal. The Treasurer reports his receipts at \$2,893 67 and his expenditures at \$2,216:42. An election for a Board of Managers on Tuesday resulted in the choice of the following named gentlemen: - Collins West, President; Hugh Stevenson, Vice-President; John Pierce, Treasurer; J. Lesley Anderson, Secretary: R. K. Stewart, J. M. Cooper, J. A. Boger, Hugh McConnell, William Stewart, William Kelley, James Wilson and Richard Brown.

-Shortly before 9 o'clock last evening an slarm of fire was sounded from Seventeenth and Vine streets, but the firemen on repairing to the scene failed to find any fire. While the insurance patrol wegon and the Empire Hook and Ladder Company were proceeding to the supposed fire they came into collision at the corner of Fifteenth and Vine streets. The insurance patrol wagon was proceeding at a rapid rate up Fifteenth street, and just as the book and ladder truck was crossing Fifteenth street on the way up Vine, the apparatus was struck by the patrol wagon. The front axle of the truck was broken, and the patrol wagon was considesably injured by the collision. A member of the hook and ladder company was severely injured by the acciding the company was severely injured by the acciding the constant of the least of our claims to that bigh character for patriotic effort which it has always been our aim to establish. I have now the pleasure of introducing Mr. Gibbons, who has been selected by the Board to prepatrol wagon was considesably injured by the

-At the meeting of the Local Preachers yesterday afternoon the question, "Is it the duty of Protestants to insist upon the reading of the sacred Scriptures in our public schools? was debated at considerable length, a number of the members of the association taking part in the discussion. The association theu resolved itself into a conversational meeting on Sabbath-school instruction, Sabbathschool literature, and family piety. The evening session consisted of a discussion on the subject of temperance, and a number of

the local preachers gave their experience and accounts of the work performed by them in the temperance cause. After several short addresses had been made, a benediction was pronounced, and the convention adjourned to meet at Indianapolis next October. -At the annual session of the State Coun-

cil, O. U. A. M., yesterday afternoon, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:-State Councillor, Richard P. Andress, of No. 9; S. V. C., J. K. Snyder, of No. 3; S. C. Secretary, John P. Pratt, of No. 36; S. C. Treasurer, John Krider, of No. 62; S. C. Inductor, John Server, of No. 52; S. C. Examiner, Martin H. Williams, of No. 7; S. C. Protector, C. V. Eastlack, of No. 12. -A meeting of the Public Buildings Com-

mission was held yesterday, Mr. John M. Rice presiding. A resolution was adopted empowering the President to procure suitable rooms to meet in. A resolution was offered directing the architect to prepare plans for the Public Buildings on Penn Squares as they are now situated, and other plans for buildings at the intersection of Broad and Market streets. The meeting then adjourned.

Domestic Affairs

-Gold closed yesterday at 1123. -The yellow fever is quite bad at Mobile.

-The health of Chief Justice Chase is rapidly improving.

—Considerable damage has occurred to vessels on our great lakes during the recent

-The Prison Reform Congress closed its

sessions at Cincinnati yesterday, after sitting —Heavy smuggling transactions have re-cently been discovered in Boston, which im-

plicate several prominent merchants of that

-There was a very protracted meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, but the nature of the business before it was not allowed to trans-

-Again comes the rumor that Mr. Delano is to succeed Mr. Cox in the Department of the Interior, and the announcement is only delayed until his successor in the Revenue Bureau can be determined upon.

THE METHODISTS.

Vesterday's Session of the Methodist State Convention.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the delegates to the Methodist Convention of the State of Pennsylvania assembled at Horticultural Hall. After a temporary organization had been effected by the selection of Rev. Dr. H. L. Richmond, of Meadville, as Chairman, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Patterson, of Philadelphia, as Secretary, all present joined in singing the hymn commencing "All hail the power of Jesus' Name." The Rev. Dr. Nesbit then delivered an impressive

On motion, the Chair appointed committees on credentials and on permanent organization, who retired for the purpose of proceeding to business.

The calling of the conferences disclosed that the following were represented:-Pittsburg, Erie, East Genesee, Central Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Philadelphia, East German, and Newark.

On motion of Dr. Perkins, the rules of the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church were adopted to govern the

convention. A committee from the Local Preachers' Association, now in session in this city, were then introduced, and extended an invitation to the convention to be present at their jubilee, at 71 o'clock P. M., at the Union M. E.

The Committee on Organization then reported the following as the result of their

President, Rev. Bishop Simpson; Vice-Presidents, H. Sindabaugh and J. W. T. White, of Pittsburg; Rev. W. P. Bignell and J. S. McCalmont, of Erie; Rev. W. Cochrane and Major B. S. Dart of East Genesee; Rev. J. C. Smith, D. D., and Payne Pettibone, Esq, of Wyoming; Rev. Thompson Mitchell, D. D., and Hon. Eli Slifer, of Central Penn-sylvania; Rev. D. Cook and H. H. Allen, LL. D., of Philadelphia; Rev. J. J. T. Brunon and Theodore Gildemier, of East German. Secretary, Rev. R. Patterson; Assistant Secretaries, J. H. Walter, Esq., of Pittsburg; P. A. Laffer, Esq., of Erie; Rev. C. S. F. Howe, of East Genessee; J. W. Rhodes, M. D., of Wyoming; George R. Snyder, Esq.,

of Central Pennsylvania; Rev. W. J. Paxson, | of Philadelphia; J. W. Jrekson. The above officers were all unanimously

elected. A committee of eight was then appointed on resolutions.

After which addresses were made by Rev. George Peck, of the Wyoming Conference, Rev. Charles Cook, of Philadelphia, and others. In the evening the convention reassembled.

and after the usual devotional exercises the following topic was discussed at great length: -"Methodism: Its Growth and Present Position in the State." The convention then adjourned until 9 A. M. to-day.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

Meeting of the Union Lengue. In accordance with a long-time avowed desire to agitate the question of constitutional reform, the members of the Union League of Philadelphia assembled in special meeting at their house on Broad street last evening. Scarcely any of the prominent members were absent, and punctually at eight o'clock Hon. Morton McMichael, president of that most influential organization, called the meeting to order saving. organization, called the meeting to order, saying: Gentlemen of the Union League: The board of Gentlemen of the Union League: The board of directors have convened this meeting, as the notice published in the daily journals, and sent to each of you through the post, has informed you, "for the purpose of considering a proposed application to the Legislature for the call of a convention to amend the constitution of Pennsylvania." They have been moved to take this action not only because their own convictions of duty prompted them o do so, but also because prominent citizens in different sections of the State have urged that, recognising the necessity of and the public demand for such a movement, an institution so favorably situated to promote it as the Union League should ve to it the sanction of its indorsement, and aid it

y all the means in its power.

For some weeks past this subject has been under secusion by the Board of Directors, and they will present for your consideration this evening a pre-amble and resolutions which embody their views, and which they trust will receive your approbation. as I presume there are several gentlemen present who will address you, I shall not anticipate what any of them may desire to say by further comment. I shall content myself with the declaration that I join most heartily in the good work we have inau-gurated; and that when it shall be crowned with success, as I do not doubt it will be, I shall regard share which our League will have had in its

sent the resolutions. The resolutions read by Mr. Gibbons were as

Whereas, It is declared by the constitution of Pennsylvania that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and bappiness; and that, for the advancement of ends, they have at all times an unalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think

And whereas. The high powers conferred upon the Legislative department of the government were delegated by the people, with the full confi-dence and expectation that they would be exercised for the common benefit, and that no temptations of rivate gain or advantage would ever control or fluence any branch of the law-making power of the State, in the execution of the sacred trust con-fided to its management; And whereas, The history of the legislation of

And whereas, The history of the legislation of Pennsylvania for many years past is strongly marked by the corruptive power of corporations, seeking special favors by the temptations of bribery; the franchises of the State are bartered for money, and our legislative halls have often been converted into market places, where important public offices have been sold to the highest bidders by faithless and venal public servants; vested rights have been threatened and assailed for the sole purpose of extorting ransom from their lawful proprietors, and public acts, which concern the common welfare, are passed or rejected with-out intelligent consideration, and thus the safety and happiness of the people are frequently im-paired and imperilled by dishonest and incompe-tent representatives;

And whereas, There appears to be no other re-

medy for these monstrous and acknowledged evils than such well-considered amendments of the constitution of the State as will deliver the legislative body from the temptations which continually assail it, and improve the character of its members, by securing the rights of minorities in all popular elections; therefore Resolved, That the members of the Union League

of Philadelphia, now assembled in general meeting, do approve and recommend the calling of a convention, to be composed of delegates chosen by the freemen of the State, for the purpose of pro-posing amendments to the constitution of Penn-

sylvania. Resolved, In order that the wishes of the freemen of the Commonwealth may be duly ascertained in respect to the calling of such a convention, that ap-plication be made to the Legislature at its next session for the passage of a proper act, submitting the question to the people for their decision at an election to be held for the special purpose on the first Tuesday in May next, or at some other convenient

Resolved, That a committee to consist of ten per-sons, five of whom shall be taken from the body of the League and five from the Board of Managers of the League, be appointed for the purpose of di-recting public attention to the subject of the fore-going preamble and resolutions, with authority to confer with any other committees that may be appointed by other organizations or meetings having the same ends in view, and with power to take such

and expedient.

In supporting the resolutions Mr. Gibbons spoke most eloquently. He said:

The preamble and resolutions which are now submitted to the action of the League were unanimously approved, as stated, by the Board of Directors. I believe they do not magnify the corruption known to exist in the legislative department of our State government. It is the inevitable result of a system which gives to that department the power to confer special and valuable privileges upon one set of men and deny the like to others who seek them for like objects equally meritorious. Wherever such a power resides in a legislature, all Wherever such a power resides in a legislature, all experience proves that neither those who seek nor those who confer such favors are beyond the reach

The franchises of the State are secured in these latter days less by considerations of a public na-ture than by means of private gain to individuals, and hence they have become the almost unfailing sources of that corruption which is shaking the consources of that corruption which is shaking the con-iidence of many people in the stability of popular government. Public opinion exhausts its indig-nation upon those who have surrendered to the temptations of bribery, while the managers of cor-porations who permit the money of their stock-holders to be applied to such purposes escape ob-servation and punishment, and seem to imagine that no share of the responsibility rests upon their shoulders. A sounder morality teaches that they who procure the bribe to be offered are the first transgressors, and are more guilty than their victransgressors, and are more guilty than their vic-time, who were too human to resist it. "It must

be that offences come, but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" It it be right to grant the franchises of the State If it be right to grant the franchises of the State for a particular purpose in one county, it is equally right to grant them for like purposes, when required, in any other county. Or if it be right to grant special powers and privileges to one corporation, it is equally right to grant the like powers to all others of the same character. The people are entitled to impartial legislation. Railroad companies, msnufacturing companies, mining, banking, insurance and trust companies, and other corporations, created for other purposes, have performed and will continue to perform important services to the State, and are so completely interwoven with all our social and material wants, that they should be created and regulated only by general laws. Such be created and regulated only by general laws. Such a reform would strike the root of the corruption

The extent to which special legislation is carried may be seen by reference to the pamphlet laws of the State. They exhibit the fact which may probably excite some surprise, that our vast and expensive machinery for making laws finds very little employment in matters which concern the public generally. It costs, perhaps, hundreds of thousands of dollars to set it up every year, and is then employed almost exclusively in special legislation, at an additional annual expense of \$300,000. The laws of 1868 are printed in a huge octave volume of 1504 pages; the laws of 1869 in a similar volume of 1502 pages; making a total of 4970 pages.

Twenty-one thousand opples of these laws have been printed at the public expense, and about three hundred pages out of the whole number contain all the general laws which have been passed for the last three years. In 1868 the Legislature passed \$1 general laws and 1274 special or private acts. In 1868 it passed 71 general laws and 1245 special or private acts. The extent to which special legislation is carried

In 1870 it passed, as nearly as I can ascertain, 49 general laws, and about 1200 private or special acts. Hundreds of these special acts relate to corporations; hundreds apply only to particular counties; many of them relate to sheep, goats, dogs, pigs, and other families of animated nature in certain townships, and all of them to matters which

could be better regulated by general and permanent laws, or which might be safety left by constitutional provision to the control of local authorities.

If the power of the Legislature were restricted to the passage of laws of a public nature, there would be, in fact, very little for it to do. Bienniai sessions are all that the public welfare would require. We

are all that the public welfare would require. We are more likely to suffer from too much than too little legislation. If our general elections were biennial, instead of annual, they would come often enough for the peace, safety, morality and happiness of the people, and the chang would result in a prodigious saving of time, health and money.

There are other subjects which would necessarily force themselves upon the attention of a convention. The rights of political minorities are entitled to respect, and should be guarded and protected by the fundamental law. How this can be best accomplished is a question which is a really engaging the attention of some of the best minds in the State. Although Mr. Buckalew is not of my political faith, I am free to say that in my opinion he is entitled to great honor for his patriotic efforts in this direction.

The practice of conferring political patronage upon courts of law, whose judges are elective, is a furcatening evil, which is worthy of serious thought. Our system of public education is a very imperfect one, and compares unfavorably in its results with that of some other countries, far behind us in liberal ideas on subjects converted with political science.

that of some other countries, far behind us in liberal ideas on subjects connected with political science. These are matters that need not be discussed here. but they are too important to be neglected in any revision that may be made of our State consti-

The proposition embraced by the resolutions involves no question of party politics. It contem-plates nothing more than the ascertainment of the will of the freemen of the State in relation to the call of a convention for the purpose indi-cated. It is impossible to close our eyes to the necased. It is impossible to close our eyes to the ne-cessity of some popular endeavor to check corrup-tion in public places, which is confined to no party, and has grown so bold, that it seems to challenge the virtue of the people to an open contest for supremacy.

It is not peculiar to Pennsylvania. It is quite as bad in other States. Not only the Legislature of New York, but the local judiciary of its great com-mercial capital is befouled by it, and the halls of Congress are not free from its loathsome touch. But our duty is at home, among our own people. If we do our part faithfully we shall unveil the old shield of the Commonwealth, which has been so long obscured, and make the pledge of "virtue, liberty and

independence," which our fathers inscribed upon it, our piedge, to be kept hereafter inviolate.

Mr. Frederick Fraley, president of the Schuylkiil Navigation Company, rose to second the resolutions, using the following words: I very cheerfully give my support to the resolu-tions now under consideration. The necessity for periodical consideration of the organic law of the State has been rendered so obvious by experience,

that it is unnecessary to go into any detailed argument to demonstrate it.

The statement of the fact that we have had three revisions of the Constitution since the year 1770, besides the partial changes that have been made since 1838, under the legislative provisions for amendment, shows that the changes which are constituted in the constitution of the constitution.

tinually going on, caused by the increase of population, the enlargement of material interests, the advance of civilization, and the conflicts of corporate and individual rights, the relations of capital and labor, furnish new forms for legislation, which, if unguarded by constituonal provisions, must be left to the omnipotent discretion of legislators.

Did we rely as they do in England on the con-current action of the legislative and executive powers for building up a constitutional system, some of the evils under which we suffer might be mitigated, if not wholly prevented, by the additional care which the people might then take in the selection of their public servants; but we rely on the restraints of our written constitutions to protect us from legislative and executive encroachments, and we find, when it is too late, that great rights have been sacrificed, or great wrongs done by laws hastily and inconsiderately passed; often, indeed, without going through the recognized forms for enacting statutes.

Such looseness of legislation is a temptation to unprincipled men to steal power or to amass wealth, and recent experience tends to admonish us that all ordinary vigilance is basiled by the skill of such assailants, and that sure protection can be found only in strong and well defined constitutional limi-

Evils of such magnitude being now universally acknowledged, the question is how shall they be remedied. The existing constitution provides for periodical changes at the will of two concurrent legislative votes and ratification by the votes of the people. But this process is attended with many difficulties and imperfections. However crude a first stage, it must not be in any way altered either in its second or final consideration, and hence amendments made in this way are of doubtful

Much the better plan is that heretofore adopted for the amendment of the constitutions of 1776 and 1790. Conventions composed of the worst and best men of the State, conservatives, theorists, radical reformers, the advocates of appointment to office by executive action or by popular election—all meeting in council, comparing their several views. and finally eliciting conclusions after an ple debate and careful scrutiny. The object of the present movement in the League is to provide by law for the holding of such a convention; that the time has come for it, few if any doubt; that both the great political parties see the necessity for it is ap-parent, in the action of their acknowledged jour-nals.

The support of such a body as this to the Legislature in the call for such a convention is of great importance. It is identified with the important changes which have been made in the Constitution of the United States—changes all in the direction of human rights and the demands of an improved social condition and civilization. Pennsylvania needs for the true development of her resources the enlargement of her facilities for intercourse by railroads, canals, &c.; the perfect education of her people; the protection of the rights of labor; the encouragement of the introduction of capital—laws broad, liberal and comprehensive, but uniform and stable. should be precise in their character and be tected from legislative encroachment or enlarge-ment by fixed constitutional provisions. The in-convenience of such strict limitations will be fully

convenience of such strict limitations will be fully compensated by the greater sanctity and security that thus pertain to the grants of life and power which charters will then give.

Mr. Gibbons has touched on another subject than those hitherto embodied in our organic laws—the representation of minorities. This is a subject worthy of the attention of all who value free institutions of government or their permanency. Under our present systems it is partially reached by the making of election districts, but this is so partial, and so much affected by purely local conditions that it is practically worthless. Such representations can be readily provided for by simple constitutional provisions, and among the many forms that have been suggested, the members of the proposed convention will find no difficulty in establishing a rule that will test the value of such a blishing a rule that will test the value of such a just recognition of what is often a full molety of those entitled to the elective franchise. Let us go forward then carnestly and faithfully

in this good work, when the election of members to the convention is authorized; let us choose our wisest and best citizens to represent the city of Phi-ladelphia; let us go into the work with the highest aims for the public welfare, and from labors having such objects our good old Commonwealth will continue to have the affections of her sons and the

respect of the world.

After Mr. Fraley had finished, the floor was taken by Mr. George I. Buzby, who spoke as follows:
Mr. President—The movement to secure a convention for the introduction of such new provisions vention for the introduction of such new provisions into our State Constitution as experience has shown to be necessary, must receive the cordial support of every good citizen. That in a growing nation new conditions and new wants must arise is a self-evident proposition. When we numbered three millions of people in only thirteen States, our political system was necessarily less complex than now, when we have forty millions in thirty-seven States. The vast increase of our peoplistion both by natural growth and millions in thirty-seven States. The vast increase of our population both by natural growth and foreign immgration, continually suggests new political problems for our solution. So many heterogeneous elements of humanity are cast upon our shores from all quarters of the world, that our utmost isculty of assimilation is tasked to combine them in one harmonious whole, Whilst this process is going on it should be the duty of every citizen to guard against such crude political action as may arise from deficient culture, intemperate zeal or imperfect acquiantance with the vital principles of the free constitutions of these United States.

I have heard a speaker say, from the platform on

the vital principles of the free constitutions of these United States.

I have heard a speaker say, from the platform on which you, sir, sit, that when in Europe the remark had been frequently made to him, "that our institutions worked well because we had a small population dispersed over a vast extent of territory." "Wait," said these European critics, "until your population shall have become dense; until every walk of life shall have been crowded with anxious competitors; until you shall no longer find yent for the passionate, enterprising and discontented in the new regions of your hage domain into which they now daily press. When at last America shall in point of population and competition for the means of decent living be, as Europe is, then we shall see the strength of your housted institutions tested. Then we shall see if the human passions which have so often desolated human hopes, and overthrown many a fair political fabric of fluest promise will be charmed into silence and peace."

And then the prophet closed fettered as he was by European experience with the annoncement of his grave distrust for our future.

We need not accopt such gloomy reasoning as a just portrayal of what shall come to us. I rather

quote it here as illustrating the axiom, that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance." If, under the more complex conditions our people are assuming, there are not sufficient safeguards against violence and fraud in the administration of our public affairs, now is the time to engraft such features upon our State constitutions as may effectually resist these evils. Already our sister States in the west, profoundly conscious of imperfections in their organic laws, have engaged in and, for the time, perfected this work.

fected this work.
We need so to amend our constitution that if bad men do succeed in getting into office and power, they may be largely, if not wholly, divested of ability to do mischief. If ruffians overawe honest men at the polls, or seize by force the ballot-box, or fraudulently count the votes it contains for the purpose of sending to the Legislature, or elsewhere in public life, some tool of theirs, vile enough to do their bidding, we must provide in the constitution as a harrier against his indulgence of their desires. When the representative shall have been proved when the representative shall have been proved impotent to reward the wretch who based his claims for remuneration upon a pientiful display of knife and revolver at the polls, or by bursting with brutal violence into the chamber where return judges are peaceably performing their duty, then shall one great motive for the display of political ruffinism be removed. For I will do the worst of

human nature the justice to believe that it loves not evil for its own sake alone.

How our legislators shall be disabled from the commission of venal crimes, and be compelled to render honorable service to the public—for unhappily the skirts of the Pennsylvania Legislature are foul, and we dare not pronounce them clean. happily the skirts of the Pennsylvania Legislature are foul, and we dare not pronounce them clean—will be determined by the convention which is now proposed. An increase in the number of our legislators, as practised in New Engiland, will make their services more difficult of purchase. An oath taken previous to the occupancy of their official seats that they have spent no money, nor used any improper means to obtain office, will exercise a restraining influence. The publication of every bill of consequence before final action upon it, and then the insistence upon final action upon it, and then the insistence upon the approval of an actual majority of the members of the Legislature, and that upon a call of the yeas and nays, would effectually restrict reckless and

delous legislation. But these are matters to be discussed hereafter. Our great want is to secure good men for public life. For years we have been steadily driving them from it, and have almost made public life ignominious. If our institutions are to live, this must cease. No republic can exist if overlaid with vio-lence and fraud. God grant that the time may come, as heretofore, when there shall alone sit in our public halls men

"Upon whose front engraven deep, Deliberation sits, and public care, And princely counsel in their face Majestic shipes."

Mr. Buzby was succeeded by Mr. Speakman, who, indorsing the action proposed, felt that the cid was so difficult of accomplishment, that something more than an amendment to the constitution was wanted. Something should be done to purify politics in the first stages, and this the speaker considered could be reached by giving suffrage to women, and by this means only could perversion

Mr. William Rotch Wistar, following Mr. Speakman, took exception to the preamble, while agreeing with the resolutions. He could not coincide
with the idea that the rights of minorities to representation was the only method to secure reform And further, he thought that expression
should be given to the idea that an elective jud.ciary is a creat evil.

ciary is a great evil.

Mr. John Price Wetherill continued the debate, and claimed that the meeting was called to show the necessity of a convention and not to discuss items, and advocated the resolutions as they were

Colonel Francis Jordan, secretary of the com monwealth, thought that no time should be lost in carrying this movement to a head. In his opinion the sentiment of the country was already ripe for the movement. In all preliminary action details and partisan effort should be studiously ignored. Colonel Jordan himself felt that a State Treasurer should not be appointed as now. Legislation at the State capital, he was prepared to affirm from his official knowledge, was a thing of the past, considered as it used to be in the early days of pure representation. No member ever gives attention to anything but the private bills, and public measuses are left to fall to the ground. This can only be remedied by constitutional amendment, and no improvement can be expected until this course is

After some participation in the debate by Messrs. James Milliken, Jr., John Goforth and others, the preamble and resolutions were read, and the meeting adjourned. On this subject the following letter from Governor Geary is of interest: EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA.,

17, 1870.—George H. Boker, Esq., Secretary Union League—Dear sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note, inviting me to attend a meeting of the Union League, to be held at the League House on the 18th inst., at 8 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of considering a proposed applieation to the Legislature for the call of a conven tion to smend the constitution of Pennsylvania."
I cordially commend the object for which the meeting has been called, and notice with pleasure that the Union League of Philadelphia has taken the iniative in the preliminary discussions of so im-portant a measure, before the meeting of the Lo-gislature, so as to elicit public opinion, and to give gishature, so as to elicit public opinion, and to give form to the wishes of the people upon the subject. It is generally conceded that our Commonwealth has ourgrown the constitution of 1838. I hope, therefore, the subject will be thoroughly discussed by the people during the brief period prior to the meeting of the next Legislature, as it is my present intention to lay my views in tavor of calling a constitutional convention before that body in my forthcoming annual message.

forthcoming annual message.

Previously determined official engagements elsewhere, at the time indicated in your invitation, will deprive me of the pleasure of meeting with the League as you request. JNO. W. GEARY.

THE WAR. LAST NIGHT'S DESPATCHES.

BISMARCK S PEACE PROPOSALS AS REPORTED BY GENERAL BURNSIDE-THEIR REJECTION BY THE FRENCH-RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS.

VALENCIENNES, Oct. 18.
The Prussians attacked the unfortified town of Montdidier, killed three citizens and captured 150 of the Mobiles. A requisition of 150,000 francs was levied on the town, and the Mayor and M. Durand, a banker, were taken as hostages for payment. The Wurtemburg troops have been placed under com-mand of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg. It is asserted that the Emperor Napoleon has

10,000,000 francs secured in real estate, through the agency of Brown Bros., of New York.

The Journal of St. Petersburg says that Favre, on hearing the Prussian conditions of peace, through General Burnside, thought they were reasonable, and their rejection is consequently unac-countable.

Messrs. Lucon and Mittnacht had an audience

Messrs. Lucon and Mittnacht had an audience with the King of Wurtemburg, and subsequently proceeded to Versailles. General Boyer, with a fisg of truce from Bazaine, had an interview with Bismarck, who has made a report of their conversation to the King of Prussia. The result of this negotiation is not yet known.

London, Oct. 18.—[Special to the New York Tribune.]—A correspondent at Tours telegraphs under date of October 17: "I have returned from Blois. No engagement has taken place. The French are daily receiving reinforcements and a battle was expected on Tuesday on the left flank of the river, near La Ferte St. Aubin.

"Bourbaki strived yesterday at Blois, and took command of the army.

"The Prussians have destroyed the bridge at Beaugency; their left having crossed the Loire in

"The Prussians have destroyed the bridge at Beaugency; their left having crossed the Loire in everal places."

LONDON, Oct. 18.—[Special to New York World.]—
The negotiations at Brussels between Burnside and others have resulted in a total failure. The Foreign Office was to-night informed of the failure, and abandons all hopes of settlement, and the bombardment of Paris will commence immediately. Siege guns were mounted yesterday at Chatillon.

Russia demands a revision of the treaty of 1858.

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Spirited encounters occurred on Sunday, on the line of the Rouen road. The Prussian column moved up the right bank of the Seine, and approached Les Pettis Andeleys. The town was occupied by the 94th regiment, which, on the approach of the enemy, crossed the river, blew up the bridge, and fell back.

The Prussians moved up the river to Courcelles, where they passed the Seine. They were furiously attacked by the Franc-tireurs, and finally compalled to retreat in disorder.

attacked by the Franc-tireurs, and finally compelled to retreat in disorder.

A French war steamer has been ordered to carry the French mails over the channel.

A letter from Paris by balloon, dated on October 14, says the squares and pleasure grounds have been planted with cabbages and cauliflowers. There is no anxiety to make peace. The battle of Baynux resulted in such severe loss that the Prussians asked for six hours to bury their dead.

Bismarck's proposals for peace, through Burnside, were the payment of an indemnity of £80,-600,000, Alsace and Lorraine to be neutral territory for ten years, and then to decide by a plebiseitum their future status, and the Prussians to enter Paris and sign a peace there. The Parislans indignantly refused these terms.

More favorable news has been received from Paris. A bridge has been thrown across the Seine, by which independent communication has been esablished between forts Charenton and fyry.

ports from official and private sources show that bands of sharpshooters in all parts of the country occupied by the enemy are becoming more and more effective, and cause much annoyance and damage on the Germanline of communication. An official dispatch states that the franc-tireurs, after a successful engagement, occupied Melun. No official intelligence from Orleans have been made public to-day. Strategical movements in that direction are on foot, which render it necessary for the government to withhold all information likely to be of service to the enemy.

A private despatch from Chateau d'Eu, dated to-day, reports that shells were thrown into that town this afternoon.

A telegram from Dijon to-day announces that Vessoul has been occupied by the Prussians.

In the absence of any representative of the United States at Tours, the French government request the New York Associated Press to make known to the American government and people its extreme desire to make a new postal treaty between the two nations, and that it would gladly receive a special envoy from Washington, with whom negotiations might be concluded to that end.

MARINE TELEGRAPH.

For additional Marine News see First Page. ALMANAC FOR PHILADELPHIA-THIS DAY. SUN RISES. 6-15 MOON SETS. 0-03 SUN SETS. 5-14 HIGH WATER. 8-5

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE. WASH, BUTCHER, ISEARL W. MORRIS, COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH. JAMES DOUGHERTY,

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMSHIPS. FOR AMERICA.
London New York Sept. 17
Havre. New York Sept. 17
Havre. New York Sept. 27
Vera Cruz. New York VH. Sept. 21
tr. Liverpool New York Oct. 3
Liverpool New York Oct. 3
Liverpool New York Oct. 5 Paraguay... Guiding Star . Havre.... Denmark . . Havre... C. of Mexico . . Vera Cruz... C. of Manch'tr . Liverpool . Calabria..... Boston.....Oct. New York....Oct. Aleppo.... Nebraska.. Liverpool... Pereire Brest.... Liverpool. New York ... Oct. New York ... Oct. New York ... Oct. Cubn.... Pennsylvania. Liverpool... .New York v. H.Oct. New York Oct.

Etna. Liverpool New Y Australia Glasgow New Y FOR EUROPE. C. of Brooklyn, New York Liverpool Oct. France New York Liverpool Oct. India New York Glasgow, Oct. C. of Brussels. New York ... Liverpool Oct. Italy. New York Liverpool Oct.
Australia New York Glasgow. Oct.
Etna New York Liverpool via H. Nov.
C. of Wash'th. New York Liverpool Nov.
COASTWISE, DOMESTIC, ETC.
Alaska New York Aspinwall. Oct.
City of Mexico New York Vera Cruz, etc. Oct.
Missouri. New York Hayana. Oct.
Tonawanda Philadelphia Savannah. Oct.
Wyoming Philadelphia Savannah. Oct.
Achilles. Philadelphia Charleston. Oct.
Vazoo Philadelphia New Orleans Oct. Italy....

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Ship Tonawanda, Turley, Mobile, Cope Bros.
Steamship Fanita, Freeman, New York, John F. Ohi,
Steamer H. L. Gaw, Her, Baltimore, A. Groves, Jr.
N. G. bark Enterprise, Mulder, Gibraltar for orders, L. Westergaard & Co. Brig C. V. Williams, Thompson, Charleston, Chas. Hasiam & Co. Schr Z. Steelman, French, Wilmington, N.C., do.

Schr Cameo, Dennison, Boston,
Schr Harry C. Sheppard, Clark, Charleston,
via Wilmington, Del.,
Schr E. A. Bartle, Smith, Norfolk, J. Rommel, Jr. Schr Maggie Mulvey, Rawley, Boston, do. Schr J. C. Patterson, Wickson, Fall River, do. Schr Josephine, Rogers, Providence, do. Schr J. A Garrison, Smith, Alexandria, do. Schr A. T. Cohn, Cohn, Washington, do. Schr Fred. Smith, Smith, Barbadoes, Souder & Adams. & Bro.

Adams. Adams.

**EF* Schrs A. D. Huddell, Lyra, M. D. Ireland, and
M. Dutch, for Boston; N. C. Price, for Cape May;
and Hannibal, for South Amesbury, were cleared
on Monday by E. Audenried & Co., and not as before reported.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
Steamship Hercules, Doughty, from New Orleans th inst., with mode, to Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Co. Steamship Co.
Steamer Achilles, Colburn, from New Orleans via
Savannah, with mdse, to Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Co.

Mail Steamship Co.
Steamer Anthracite, Green, 24 hours from New
York, with mdse. to W. M. Baird & Co.
Br. brig Hermes, Lees, 18 days from Porto Cabello,
with coffee, nides, etc., to John Dallett & Co.
Schr John Lank, Kemp, 4 days from Choptank
River, with railread ties to Collins & Co.
Schr John Shay, Tilton, 5 days from Boston, in
ballast to Chas. Haslam & Co.
Schr Tarrynot, Knowles, 3 days from New York,
with salt to Wm. Bumm & Sons—vessel to Souder
& Acams. Schr Ocean Bird, Marsh, 6 days from James River, with lumber to Collins & Co.

AT QUARANTINE. Brig Ellen P. Stewart, Holland, from Sagua.

Correspondence of The Evening Telegranh EASTON & MCMAHON'S BULLETIN. New York Offics, Oct. 18. - Five barges leaved a tow to night, for Baltimore, light. BALTIMORE BRANCH OFFICE, Oct. 18 .- The follow

ing barges leave in tow to-night, eastward:—
H. Paimer, W. S. Burton, J. B. Avery, R. F. Sillimap, W. J. Dunlap, Belle Daniels, C. B. Simmons,
Rockwood, and R. V. De Witt, all with coal, for New Dido, with coal, for Bridgeton.

Special Despatch to The Evening Telegraph.

HAVES-DE-GRACE, Oct. 19.—The following boats left this morning in tow:—

Diawalighiri, with lumber to Patterson & Lippincoit.

Sandusky, with lumber to Taylor & Betts. LEWES, Del., Oct. 18-9 A. M. — The pilot-boat Howard reports the brig Ellen P. Stewart, from Sagua, passed in yesterday.

In the harbor to-day, barks Ocean and Mary Fal-lam, in ballast for orders, and Emily, from Turks lain, in ballast for orders.

A large ship is anchored near the Brown.

4 P. M.—The pilot-boat Cope reports the ship Tuscarora went to sea to-day, and three barks from

above.

In harbor, vessels reported this morning, and bark Bidwell, from Havre, in ballast for orders; 8 schrs and a small steamer from above, bound southward.

Wind N. W.; blowing fresh. Thermometer, 85. MEMORANDA.

Ship Jamestown, Call, hence, at Savannah yesterday.

Br. steamers City of Antwerp, Leitch, and Siberia,
Harrison, for Liverpool, cleared at New York yesterday.
Steamer Mary Sanford, Chadwick, for New York, cleared at Wilmington, N. C., 17th inst.
Steamer Francis Wright, Nickerson, for New York,

Steamer Fancis and the list.

Steamer Rattlesnake, Winnett, for Beverly, sailed from New Bedford 17th inst.

Steamer George Washington, Gager, from New York, at New Orleans 16th Inst.

Steamer Cortes, Nelson, for New York, sailed from New Orleans 17th first.

Steamer Tonawauda, Barrett, from Savannah 15th inst., for Philadelphia, has on board 351 bales upland cotton, 69 do yarn, 130 casks rice, 32 tons iron, 200 empty barrels, 17,221 feet lumber, 6 bales waste cot-

empty barreis, 17,221 feet lumber, 6 bales waste cotton, and 75 pkgs. mdse.

Steamer Yazoo, Catharine, for Philadelphia via Havana, cleared at New Orleans 14th inst. Passengers:—C. Muller, Cecilia Gilbert, Maria Thoraton, Rose Delgado, Felecita Bosque, and G. Schneidan. Cargo for Philadelphia:—67 bales cotton, 400 hides, 125 bdis. do., 37 bales moss, 60 empty carboys, 217 empty barrels, 58 pkgs. old iron, 7 rolls leather, and 9 pkgs. mdse. 9 pkgs. mdse. Steamer Norman, Nickerson, hence, at Boston

17th inst. Br. bark Polly, Rodd, hence, at Falmouth 6th inst. for Stettin.

Bark Almoner, Carey, hence for Queenstown, put into Schull (Long Island channel), 1st inst., through stress of weather.

Bark Desiah, hence for Queenstown, before reported abandoned, was passed Sept. 22, in lat. 37 58, long. 65 43, by bark Tropic Bird, at New Bedford.

Br. bark Gladstone, Brown, hence, at Satilla Mills, Ca. 4th lost.

Brig Reporter, Coombs, hence, at Salem 15th inst.
Brig Milwaukee, Brown, at Boston from Philadelphia, lost about 16 tons of coal in a gale 5th inst. off

Chincoteague.

Brig Neuvitas, Trask, from Boston for Philadel-phia, returned to Holmes' Hole 14th inst., and sailed Brig Eldwell. Baker, from Havre 31st August for Philadelphia (below), was spoken 18th uit, lat. 53,

long. 16.
Brig Tubal Cain, Stone, hence for Cronstadt, in
the Sound, Els'nore, 2d inst.
Brigs Nathaniel Stevens and G. W. Chase, from
Boston for Philadelphia, at Holmes' Hole 17th inst.
Schr Benjamin Gartside, Brown for Philadelphia,
sailed from New Bedford 15th inst.
Schrs R. W. Tull, Robbins, and H. N. Miller, Miler, hance, at Boston 17th inst.

Schr James Satterthwaite, Kinney, for Philadelphia, cleared at Boston 17th inst.
Schr Kensington, Baker, hence, at Holmes' Hole
10th inst., and salled for Boston.
Schrs Susan, from Portland, and E. F. Cabada,
from Boston, both for Philadelphia, at Holmes' Hole
17th Inst.—the Cabada salled again.
Schr Ethan Allen, Blake, hence, at Portland 16th
instant. instant. Schrs Charles H. Moller, Brown, and Jas. Ponder, Jr., Brown, fm Boston for Philadelphia, at Holmes' Hole 16th inst., and sailed again. Schr Clara Merrick, Hand, hence, at Lynn 16th instant, Schrs J. S. Watson, Houck; Ann Elizabeth, Kelly; and William Boardman, Billard, hence, at Lynn 11th instant. Schrs Henry, Dobbin, and Raven's Wing, York, bence, at Lynn 16th inst. Schr Teluman, Hall, hence, at Charleston 17th Schr Admiral, Steelman, hence, at Salem 16th Schr C. W. May, Enson, hence, at Providence 16th

Schrs B. Bradley, Mulligan; Anna E. Safford, Powell; and Lizzie Florence, Lippincott, for Phila-delphia, sailed from Pawtucket 15th inst. AMUSEMENTS.

A CADEMY OF MUSIC.—MLLE. NILSSON.
MAX STRAKOSCH respectfully announces
to the public that the fourth and last
GRAND NILSSON CONCERT

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General Admission Signor BOSONI.
Reserved Seats (Balcony and Balcony Boxes). 3:00
Reserved Seats (Parquet and Parquet Circle). 4:00
Prosceptum Boxes

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THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, Oct. 19,
Third appearance of

MR. JOHN S. CLARKE. MR. JOHN S. CLARKE.

Commencing with Colman's five-act comedy,
THE HEIR-AT-LAW.

MR. JOHN S. CLARKE as DR. PANGLOSS.

After which Mr. Clarke's reconstructed version of
THE TOODLES,

MR. JOHN S. CLARKE as TIMOTHY TOODLES.

Friday—BENEFIT OF MR. J. S. CLARKE.

GRAND MATINEE ON SATURDAY.

MR. J. S. CLARKE as OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

MR. J. S. CLARKE AS OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

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THEATRE. Begins & to 8 o'clock.
LAST TIME OF "MAN AND WIFE."
THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, Oct. 18, 1870,
POSITIVELY LAST NIGHT OF
MAN AND WIFE,
With its great cast and fine effects.
To-morrow—LONDON ASSURANCE.
On Friday—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.
A great bill on Saturdsy—Three Pieces.
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The Queen of all Peerless Danseuses
MillE DE ROSA,
Fremiere Danseuse Assoluta, will appear in Two
Ballets.
MISS EMMA ALFORD,
the celebrated London Serio-Comic Envisement

the celebrated London Serio-Comic Burlesque SYDNEY FRANKS. A most Original Comic Singer and Mimic, DICK SANDS,

the Famous Lancashire Clog Dancer.

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